

## REMARKS

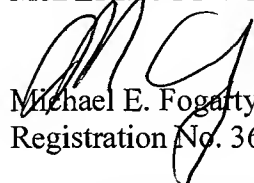
In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have cancelled claims 6, 9, 14, 17 and 18, without prejudice. As such, only claims 15 and 16, which have been indicated to be allowable, remain pending in the application. Accordingly, as no other objections or rejections are pending, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Having fully and completely responded to all open issues in the Office Action, it is submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

  
Michael E. Fogarty  
Registration No. 36,139

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF:MaM  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
**Date: October 29, 2008**

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